

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, IV, NI, SG

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST FAVORS ARAB PARTICIPATION IN
LAGOS FESTIVAL OF BLACK ARTS

1. MINISTER OF CULTURE JULES HIE NEA DEFINED IVORY COAST
POSITION ON ARAB PARTICIPATION IN LAGOS FESTIVAL OF BLACK
ARTS IN PRESS INTERVIEW GIVEN JULY 16 FOLLOWING HIS RECENT VISIT
TO LAGOS FOR PARTICIPATION IN FESTAC COMMITTEE MEETING.

2. HIE NEA SAID THAT IVORY COAST WAS NOT RPT NOT OPPOSED
TO ARAB PARTICIPATION IN THE COLLOQUIUM ON BLACK CIVILIZA-
TION. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE ARABS, AND FOR THAT MATTER
EUROPEANS AND OTHERS COULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THE PROMOTION
OF BLACK CIVIL-
IZATION AND CULTURE BY ADDING ANOTHER PERSPEC-
TIVE THROUGH THEIR PRESENTATIONS. FURTHERMORE, SAID HIE NEA,
IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT THERE ARE CULTURAL AFFINITIES
BETWEEN THE BLACK AND ARAB WORLDS. HE CITED THE
PHARAONIC CIVILIZATION OF EGYPT HAVING ITS ORIGINS
IN BLACK CULTURE.

3. HIE NEA NOTED THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SENEGAL AND
NIGERIA OVER THE ISSUE, AS A RESULT OF WHICH SENEGAL
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HAS PROVISIONALLY WITHDRAWN FROM PARTICIPATION. HE

REGRETTED THE DETERIORATION IN SENEGALO-NIGERIAN RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE WAKE OF THE RECALL OF SECRETARY GENERAL ALIOUNE DIOP WHO, SAID THE MINISTER, HAD DIRECTED THE COMMITTEE QTE UNFLINCHINGLY END QTE.

4. THE MINISTER SAID IVORY COAST ACKNOWLEDGES SENEGAL'S POSITION THAT THERE IS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL WHICH AIMS AT PROMOTING UNITY OF BLACKS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND THE PAN-AFRICAN FESTIVAL WHICH AIMS AT PROMOTING AFRICAN UNITY, INCLUDING THE ARABS. NEVERTHELESS IVORY COAST BELIEVES THE ARABS SHOULD PARTICIPATE ALSO IN THE FORMER AS HAVING SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE.
CRAWFORD

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